COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Services To Accept, Train Men Formerly Rejected

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has announced plans to accept this fiscal year 40,000 men who would fail Armed Forces standard aptitude tests, and make them satisfactory soldiers by intensive military instruction and on-the-job training.

Speaking to Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention in New York City, Mr. McNamara said DOD plans to accept 100,000 additional men in this category the next fiscal year and in each of the years thereafter.

The Secretary said he was "convinced that at least 100,000 men a year who are currently being rejected for military service, including tens of thousands who volunteer, can be accepted."

"To make this possible, we need only to use fully and imaginatively the resources at hand—the Defense Department today is the largest single educational complex that the world has ever possessed," he elaborated.

Mr. McNamara stressed that many who score low on tests are not born without intellectual potential but that they have never had the opportunity to develop.

The bulk of Mr. McNamara's remarks was addressed to this problem prefaced by his assertion that "poverty in America affects our national security, too, by its appalling waste of talent."

President Seeks Increased Officer Combat Tax Exemption

President Johnson has asked Congress to increase from $200 to $500 the monthly combat pay tax exemption for commissioned officers serving in combat zones.

Under present law, the pay received by enlisted personnel while serving in a combat zone is fully exempt from Federal income; however, commissioned officers receive only a $200 exemption per month.

The President's proposal would amend Section 112 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The bill notes that the amendment "shall apply with respect to compensation paid for periods of active service subsequent to Dec. 31, 1965."

LIGHT INFANTRY LANDING—COL Francis S. Conaty Jr., USA, leads members of the staff of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade ashore as the unit lands at Vung Tau, RVN. The 3,800 man brigade arrived aboard the MSTS transport USNS General Patch after a 31-day voyage from Boston, Mass.

DOD Manpower Proposal Differs from Army STEP Plan

The Defense Department's new program of accepting thousands of men who normally would be rejected for military service differs considerably from a previously proposed Army STEP program.

STEP was to be an "experimental" program for 15,000 men annually, according to DOD, but in the new program announced by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, "We will not be experimenting."

Elaborating, a DOD statement said, "We will be producing men for regular duty in a reasonable period of time . . . STEP concentrated on men without demonstrated aptitudes. We now propose to accept men with demonstrated aptitudes."

Under the new plan 85 percent or more are expected to qualify, according to DOD estimates. It was noted that unqualified men will not be retained.

Personnel would be accepted for "all services" under the new program, with training conducted at present basic training centers.

Secretary McNamara's program would be open to both rejected enlistees and inductees, DOD said. The STEP program was aimed at only rejected inductees.

Washington Memos

APTITUDE TEST FAILURES may be displaying only lack of an affluent society's cultural values and social patterns, not truly low aptitude, Defense Secretary McNamara pointed out when announcing acceptance of 40,000 "low aptitude" men in FY67.

ON THE JOB TRAINING with good teacher and course of instruction and well supported visual aids was seen as way to train so-called "low-aptitude" students. DOD believes some may be even brilliant but that their cultural environment is so radically different from test-designers.

ONE OF THREE young Americans —600,000 annually—fail to meet DOD fitness standards. About one half fail because of medical problems and the other half because of educational deficiencies. In citing these figures, Mr. McNamara said he still does not believe the qualification standards should be lowered.

ARMED SERVICES PROVIDE enlisted men with professional training in some 1,500 different skills in more than 2,000 separate courses. In addition, 65,000 officers annually continue their professional education.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE operates 327 dependents' schools around the world, employing 6,800 classroom teachers for 166,000 students—making it the ninth largest U.S. school system, with a budget of $90 million.

1LT CHARLES Q. WILLIAMS, USA, Viet Nam's most recent Medal of Honor recipient, arrived at Ft. Benning, Ga., Aug. 20, for induction into Infantry Officer Candidate Hall of Fame. Williams is fourth American serviceman in Viet Nam war to receive nation's highest award for heroism.

SOUTHEAST ASIA ADVERSARIES "have come to respect our firepower," according to Defense Secretary McNamara. "It is clear now that they can only hope for a wavering of our will power. In their belief that democracy is essentially decadent and undisciplined, they hold to the naive hope that public debate will gradually erode our national purpose."

NATO NAVAL MANEUVER in eastern and northern Atlantic in mid-August deployed 31 ships and about 15,000 men from five nations—France, Holland, Norway, Britain, the U.S.—and was first striking fleet operation since 1964. Called "Exercise Straight Laced," the sea games involved realistic air, surface and subsurface environments.

MISSILE AND FLIGHT SAFETY awards for 1965 were given to Tactical Air Command's 4510th Combat Crew Training Wing. Awards were bestowed for loading and handling more than 32,340 tons of munitions without accident or incident.

1st. Lt. ALBERT W. BLAIR selected as AF Logistics Command's Distinguished Company Grade Officer of the year. With Oklahoma City Air Materiel Area, Tinker AFB, Okla., Blair developed logistics computer programs.

WORLD WAR II ACE Col. Hubert Zemke has retired from Air Force, winding up his career as commander of Reno, Nev., Air Defense Sector. 52-year-old air leader commanded 56th and 479th Fighter Groups in England from 1942-1944 and personally downed 18 aircraft.

EIGHTEEN AIRPORT SURVEILLANCE radar display systems for Army, Navy and Marine Corps use are included in contract let by FAA. Seventeen systems will replace obsolete equipment now used at Navy and Marine Air Stations. One will go to Army at Fort Rucker, Ala. Systems are scheduled for delivery beginning in February 1967. The $1.8 million contract calls for 24 of the display systems used in air traffic control.

PRESENTATION OF 21 scientific papers and address by Gen. Bernard A. Schriever, commander of Air Force Systems Command, highlighted first annual AFSC Junior Officer Science and Engineering Symposium Aug. 23-25 at Aerospace Medical Division's USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB, Tex. More than 250 military and civilian members of the nation's scientific community attended.

CHIEF OF NAVAL Operations, Admiral David L. McDonald, attended fifth Inter-American Naval Conference in Caracas, Venezuela. Hosted this year by Venezuelan Navy, conferences are conducted by Chiefs of Naval Operations (or equivalents) of navies of Latin America. Conferences are held for purpose of studying common naval problems and stimulating professional contacts. Conference ended Aug. 26.

AUTHORITY FOR USE of appropriated funds to provide cash awards for suggestions to Air Force military, as well as civilian employees, is contained in AFM 900–4, recently published to replace AFR 40–471 which authorized suggestion awards to civilian employees only. Cash awards range from $15 to $25,000 for adopted suggestions.

USAF SPIRITUAL LIFE Conference will be held Sept. 1-5 at Ridgecrest, N.C., sponsored by Chief of Air Force Chaplains. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ralph R. Pace, assistant command chaplain, TAC, will be regional director of conference.

TYPE OF AIRPLANE that made its initial flight 27 years ago at Wright Field now is important addition to AF Museum's collection. Newly displayed plane is the Bell P-39Q "Airacobra," which was used in nearly every combat area of World War II.

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Background for Commanders

VIETNAM: BULLETS AND BALLOTS*

In Vietnam we clearly face not the most dangerous but the most difficult of the postwar crises. It is difficult for two reasons.

First, because the character of the aggression is obscure and indirect. It would not be difficult to understand what is going on if we faced, as we did in Korea, troops marching overtly across frontiers. What we face are men no longer walking but coming in trucks down the roads of Laos, infiltrating in large numbers, and mounting that most difficult and painful of operations for a developing nation, a major guerrilla war.

The operation was decided upon in Hanoi. It has been built up steadily. We are committed to deal with it in the South. **Those of us close to the operation have never felt more pride in our men fighting in combat than we have in those who entered into this difficult terrain in a new form of war and from the first day, in a manner unique in our history, have been on top of the job.**

These men have gone in and performed magnificently from the beginning, and they have understood the nature of the war. Their relations with the people in the villages and with the kids—the whole political side, psychological side, of this—have to be seen on the spot to be believed.

We are working with our airpower in the North to obstruct the flow of supplies to the South and to extract a price from Hanoi for conducting this aggression. We are also working constructively in the villages, in the cities, with the Government—not merely to deal with the inflationary pressure but to carry forward operations which include, for example, an operation which is well along: the distribution of 11 million schoolbooks to the children of South Vietnam. These are books they can take home and which have been designed by Vietnamese educators. We are working across the whole front of their economic development.

The Coming Election

The people of South Vietnam are carrying these operations forward under most difficult circumstances. And this is the second fact we face, one which leads to some confusion and makes the operation difficult: They have decided—and they have honestly decided—that, despite the war, they are going to move toward a constitutional process. And this nation with a long history of regional, religious, racial differences is struggling with that.

Although the television cameras have been focused on the disturbances in the streets, since early April the South Vietnamese Government has been working in a most extraordinarily systematic way to lay out rules for this election. They are going to have the election on September 11 for a constituent assembly. And those representing the vast majority of the population of South Vietnam are gripped in a struggle to produce, despite the war, a constitutional process and a government with that legitimacy which comes from government by consent of the governed.

This may seem improbable—an improbable aspiration to those who feel that somehow democracy is only achievable in the Anglo-Saxon world. But that's not the way it looks to those of us who work day to day in the developing areas. **There are many failures in the efforts to achieve democracy, but there are also an increasing number of successes.** More and more, the people in South Vietnam concerned with this are studying what is one of the most remarkable and unexpected political success stories—as well as one of the economic success stories—of the last 5 years, and that's Korea.

Korea is not the most modern of all democracies but the Koreans are operating a reputable constitutional government. And that's what these folks in South Vietnam want. It's tough. And it won't be smooth. But there is a lot more going on there than you see every night on your television sets.

What we are engaged in is a great act of persuasion—an act of persuasion which the Vietnamese and we are fighting on military, political, and economic fronts; an act of persuasion to convince Hanoi that they must accept the limits set by the Geneva accords of 1954 and 1962, honor those accords, stop the aggression, and leave their neighbors alone.

The tunnel sometimes looks long, and there seems to be no light at the end of it. But those of us who work with this problem from day to day have a deep sense of confidence that that day is going to come. We are determined that this Government shall not fail to do one thing that lies within our power to do—in the military, political, economic spheres—to hasten that day.

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* *Excerpts from background address by W. W. Rostow, Special Assistant to the President.*

Construction Battalion Training Facility Opens at Sand Point

Dedication ceremonies for the activation of a Naval Reserve Construction Battalion Training Facility were held at Sand Point, Wash., Naval Air Station Aug. 21.

The facility's purpose is to provide practical training for Naval Reserve Seabees in the Thirteenth Naval District.

U.S. Troop Morale Not Impaired by Vietnam Dissenters

Defense Department has told the House Un-American Activities Committee that morale in the Armed Forces has not been impaired by demonstrations of dissent to U.S. Vietnam policy.

DOD pointed out, however, that there have been some instances in which relatives of military personnel have been harassed by abusive and threatening communications.

"Individuals have reported receipt of such material voluntarily, and appropriate reports have been made to the Federal Bureau of Investigation," the statement said.

The flow of mail from families and friends was hailed as the most powerful counter-balance to a distortion of opinions and attitudes in the United States.

Main Battle Tank Test Organization Established

The American test organization which will evaluate the joint U.S.-Federal Republic of Germany Main Battle Tank for the 1970s has been established.

The test program will be directed from the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., by Col. Jack P. Libby, heading the new Systems Test Manager's Office, MBT-70.

U.S. interests in the tank development are represented by MG W. G. Dolvin, Army Materiel Command's MBT-70 Project Manager. His counterpart is Col. Dr. Ing Helmut Schoenfeld. They comprise the international Program Management Board.

U.S. prototypes will be routed to installations and activities of the Test and Evaluation Command in the continental United States and Alaska for engineering and service tests.

German models will be tested at German army proving grounds at Trier, Munster-Lager and Meppen.

CHECKING FLIGHT PLAN—Prior to take-off, AF photographer Harvey W. Finn, A1C (right), checks flight plan with pilot Capt. Joseph E. Fidler. Finn, who has logged 200 missions as a combat photographer, documents battle damage by AF strike pilots.

Newest Destroyer-Type Ship Deployed to WestPac

Navy's newest combat ready class of destroyer-type ships, the DE-1040 class ocean escorts, began its first extended period of actual fleet operations with the recent deployment of USS Bradley to the Western Pacific.

Bradley is operating as a unit of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, attached to a fast attack carrier strike force.

The Bradley's weapon systems include the latest concepts in submarine detection and kill capability, in addition to substantial anti-surface, anti-air, and naval gunfire support potential.

RVN Medical Care Called 'Fastest, Most Modern'

The fastest and most modern medical care in the world is being provided U.S. servicemen in Vietnam, President Johnson said in a letter to President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

President Johnson noted that the lives of almost 90 percent of those wounded are saved, "the best record in any conflict in history."

Helicopter Evacuation Cited for Reducing RVN Mortality Rate

Speedy helicopter evacuation of casualties from combat areas has been lauded by military medical authorities in Republic of Vietnam as being primarily responsible for the low mortality rate among the wounded.

Army helicopter ambulances assigned to 1st Logistical Command and 1st Air Cavalry Division currently air evac about 5,000 patients monthly in the II, III and IV Corps sectors in RVN.

Although battle action may take place in remote jungles, a DOD statement notes, "use of these air ambulances insures that the wounded are rarely more than 15 to 20 minutes from emergency medical aid administered by a surgical team established at the nearest safe clearing."

Commanding General of the 173d Airborne Brigade in RVN recently hailed the air ambulance crews as "one of the main reasons my men fight so fearlessly. We all know that if we get hit, you will come in and get us despite the odds."

Combat commanders have personally lauded the four-man crews of helicopter ambulances "as playing a decisive role in maintaining high morale among ground forces going into battle with the Viet Cong."

AF Constructs Mock-Up Of Viet Cong Village

The U.S. Air Force has re-created an area of Southeast Asia—complete from sampans to a Viet Cong village hidden by jungle underbrush—at its Air Proving Ground Center, Eglin AFB, Fla.

Known as Project "Underbrush," the mock-up simulates an actual battlefield situation in South Vietnam.

In past years the test center has been used to simulate various combat environments, particularly during World War II and the Korean conflict.

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